

UNPUBLISHED
SURVEY & CONTROL
REPORTS

INTERMOUNTAIN STATION

Central Reference File

No. 3.4163-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station
REED W. BAILEY, DIRECTOR
Ogden, Utah January 19, 1955

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATION
IN PONDEROSA PINE
LEWIS COUNTY, IDAHO
1955

By David Fellin, Entomologist

Prepared By The
Forest Insect Laboratory
Missoula, Montana

FILE COPY

MISSOULA
FOREST INSECT
LABORATORY

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATION
IN PONDEROSA PINE
LEWIS COUNTY, IDAHO

While making an aerial survey of a spruce budworm infestation during August 1955, a bark beetle outbreak in a young ponderosa pine stand was observed near Mason Mountain, southeast of Winchester in Lewis County, Idaho. (Figure 1).

The infested area, believed to be under the management of the Indian Service, covers nearly the whole of sections 22 and 27, T33N, R2W, and for the most part is surrounded by non-forested land.

Following the aerial observation of the damage, a ground examination identified the insect as the mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus monticolae (Hopk.) and indicated the need for more detailed information. On September 24, 1955 a ground survey was made by running several half-chain-wide sample strips through the infested area. The data obtained on the sample strips was on a tree basis only but it indicates that an epidemic condition is present.

Total trees on sample	1793
Uninfested	1523
Attacked by m.p.b. 1955	55 (3%)
Previously attacked	215 (12%)

These data show that the total trees killed in recent years equal approximately 15 percent of the stand. The infested trees occurred in small groups throughout the area and were approximately 18 inches d.b.h.

In addition to the infestation in the Mason Mountain area, mountain pine beetle activity was also noted on two small farm woodlots lying about one mile to the northeast.

Outbreaks of this nature are a hazard to young ponderosa pine stands because a high percentage of the timber may be destroyed by these bark beetles in a very few years.

